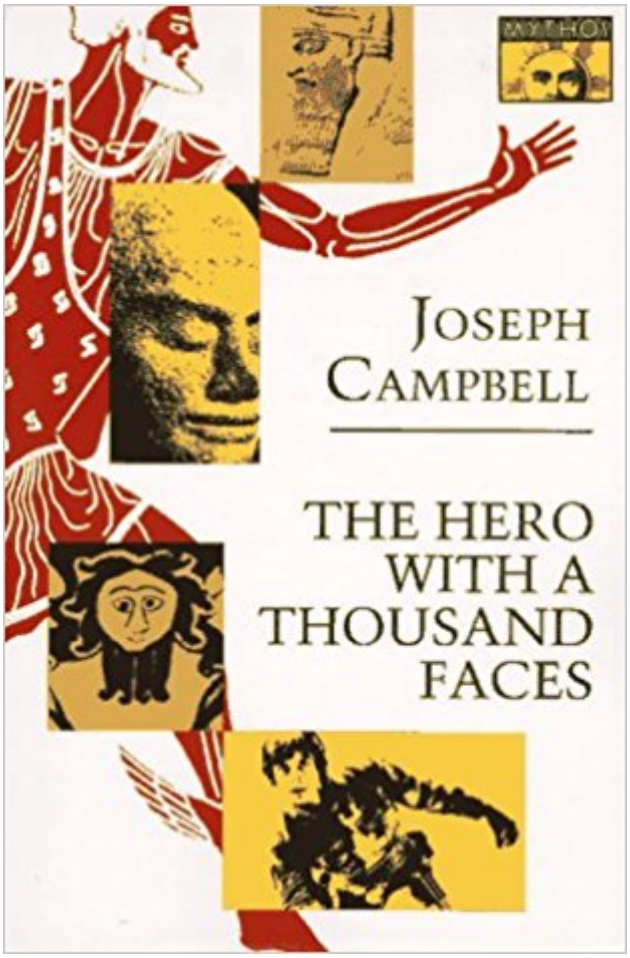
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The Hero With A Thousand Faces (Bollingen Series, No. 17)



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Synopsis

Joseph Campbell’s classic cross-cultural study of the hero’s journey has inspired millions and opened up new areas of research and exploration. Originally published in 1949, the book hit the New York Times best-seller list in 1988 when it became the subject of The Power of Myth, a PBS television special. The first popular work to combine the spiritual and psychological insights of modern psychoanalysis with the archetypes of world mythology, the book creates a roadmap for navigating the frustrating path of contemporary life. Examining heroic myths in the light of modern psychology, it considers not only the patterns and stages of mythology but also its relevance to our lives today--and to the life of any person seeking a fully realized existence. Myth, according to Campbell, is the projection of a culture’s dreams onto a large screen; Campbell’s book, like Star Wars, the film it helped inspire, is an exploration of the big-picture moments from the stage that is our world. It is a must-have resource for both experienced students of mythology and the explorer just beginning to approach myth as a source of knowledge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally written by Campbell in the ’40s-- in his pre-Bill Moyers days -- and famous as George Lucas’ inspiration for "Star Wars," this book will likewise inspire any writer or reader in its well considered assertion that while all stories have already been told, this is *not* a bad thing, since the *retelling* is still necessary. And while our own life’s journey must always be ended alone, the travel is undertaken in the company not only of immediate loved ones and primal passion, but of the

heroes and heroines -- and myth-cycles -- that have preceded us.

Campbell’s words carry extraordinary weight, not only among scholars but among a wide range of other people who find his search down mythological pathways relevant to their lives today. . . . The book for which he is most famous, The Hero with a Thousand Faces, [is] a brilliant examination, through ancient hero myths, of man’s eternal struggle for identity. -- Review

This book is for the serious reader who is looking to learn more about the origins and power of myths in their historical context and how timeless symbols including archetypes are being "rediscovered" from a psychological perspective. For the uninitiated, this is an eye opening book in that Joseph Campbell is able to demonstrate in a masterful way how many of "the patterns and logic of fairy tale and myth correspond to those of dream, [and how] the long discredited chimeras of archaic man have returned dramatically to the foreground of modern consciousness" [page 255].If you are a curious individual or student of history, then you’ll find The Hero With A Thousand Faces to be a fascinating read as the author probes deeply into the origins and significance of mythology from epistemological, ontological, psychological, and teleological perspectives. Whether you are a student of the ancient Egyptians, ancient Greeks, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Karl Abraham or others, you’re sure to find a wealth of valuable information and "perspective" in this book.A happy outcome is that by reading this book you may glean a glimpse of your own heroes journey. That fact is worth the price of the book alone. It also makes a great gift for anyone who enjoys being reflective and is not fearful of diving into their own psyche and what they might find.Robert "Bob" Wright, Jr., Ph.D., COFT

I wish i had known about this book years ago. I consider it a profound work that i hold to the esteem of a ’sacred’ text. Campbell not only demonstrates the commonality of many myths and stories, but also provides the typical progression of the ’hero’. This is a must read for any seeker of expanded awareness. When i began this book i expected a dull look at the commonalities of the world’s myths and epic stories. What i found was a map of the path of the embodied soul. Truly a magnificent book.

This book is The Bible for story structure. But you probably already knew that. Everybody in the world gives this book five stars and raves about how it changed their lives. I gave it four stars because, while it is unquestionably a great book, it can be very dry reading. I like the book, but I

can’t say that I love it, and I don’t know that it is one that I will pull off the shelf on a regular basis. Even so, if you aspire to be a professional storyteller, or you just like to spin yarns, this is one of the books you should read, if for no other reason, so that you can checkmark it off your list.

..to write this review.First, I had to pull out the dictionary a few times. It’s been many a moon since I had to do that. Second, the elementary vocabulary I have to use to write this review pales in comparison to Campbell’s vernacular.With that being said, I putting this in my Reference Section in my personal library. What a great read!

This is an amazing book filled to the brim with information. If you are a writer, then this is a must have. The hardback is worth the price, effort, and wait time (hard backs do not, unfortunately arrive in your kindle or kindle app within a minute or two). It is dense and not for those lacking in perseverance, but such a treasure trove of material is packed into one book. Joseph Campbell has scoured the world and time to put together such a complex book of ideas about stories. His writing style is quite dense and reminds me of Jung’s writing style or Rand’s style a bit. You need to invest some time to get accustomed to his style, but the time and effort will be worth it.

I highly recommend this book if you’re wanting to know how to write a screenplay. The author goes step by step on focusing on the hero of your story and the journey he/she has to take in order to full fill his/her destiny. Mr. Campbell uses examples for ancient stories to prove his point. The book is not at all boring and I finished it within a day. I also recommend this for college students.

This is the guideline for understanding not only all of stories, but all of storytelling. Across cultures from every corner in the planet, the same themes show up time and again--but why? This book looks at why we tell stories, and what deeper truths we can know about humanity from the fact that ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Native American tribes, and African tribes, all consumed themselves with stories that have way more in common with Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, and Breaking Bad, then you’d think.Skeptics have pointed to ancient myths, authentically dated well before the life of Christ, that ring far too familiar to His story. They’ll say this is proof that Christianity is B.S., but Joseph Campbell says it must mean something deeper.Campbell was a Christian, and I’m an agnostic, but I’d say anyone who can dig through his heavy rhetoric will find something really valuable here, regardless of their previous spiritual beliefs.

Joseph Campbell’s seminal work which outlines his monomyth theory- where he states all stories follow a central patterns.Joseph Campbell is such a good resource to have, not only for his inspiration & insight into the human condition but also because of his expertise on mythology throughout time. This adds a scholarly profundity that too often alludes the self-help aisle.Our culture will never embrace clear eyed reality based belief, the long road down monotheism has assured us of that. But through the small academic window of anthropology & mythology- we can regain the mystic awe necessary for fulfillment grounded in universal tradition-not by generalization but by specific cultural examples. Campbell provides these examples, and it will invigorate your spirit as he adapts them to our modern age.Also recommended is "All Things Shining" by Hubert Dreyfus.

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